S/N: 10/709,403 Reply to Office Action of April 23, 2007

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-28, 30-34, 36-45 and 63-65 are pending in the application, of which claims 8, 13-17, 19-28, 30-34 and 36-42 are allowed; and claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 18, 43-45 and 63-65 are rejected.

By this paper, Applicant amends claims 1, 6, 43 and 63. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims; however, Applicant amends the claims to put them in allowable form to facilitate allowance of the patent application. Canceled or surrendered subject matter has been canceled or surrendered without prejudice and may be filed in a subsequent continuation application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 43-45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for including a typographical error. By this paper, claim 43 has been amended to depend from claim 33 instead of canceled claim 35. Therefore, claims 43-45 overcome the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 11 and 12 Over Harrison et al. In View of Higgs et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al. (5322341) in view of Higgs et al. (4585273). By this paper, Applicant amends claim 1 as a dependent claim, depending from allowed claim 8. Therefore, no new issues are raised by this amendment and claim 1 is allowable for depending from an allowed claim. Claims 3, 4, 5, 11 and 12 depend from claim 1 and therefore are allowable for depending from allowed claim 8.

Rejection of Claims 6, 7 and 10 Over Harrison et al. In View of Higgs et al. and Further In View of Isono et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al. (5322341) in view of Higgs et al. (4585273), and further in view of Isono et al. (4592588). Claims 6, 7 and 10 depend from claim 1, which has been amended to depend from allowed claim 8. Claim 6 has been amended to have consistent antecedent basis with the new base claim 8. No new issues are raised by this amendment. Since claims 6, 7 and 10 depend from an allowed claim, these claims are allowable as well.

Rejection of Claim 9 Over Harrison et al. In View of Higgs et al. and Further In View of Kim

The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al. (5322341) in view of Higgs et al. (4585273), and further in view of Kim (6488333). Claim 9 depends from claim 1, which has been amended to depend from an allowed claim. Therefore, claim 9 is allowable for depending from an allowed claim.

Rejection of Claim 18 Over Harrison et al. In View of Higgs et al. and Further In View of Greaves

The Examiner has rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al. (5322341) in view of Higgs et al. (4585273), and further in view of Greaves (2979098). Claim 18 depends from claim 1, which has been amended to depend from an allowed claim. Therefore, claim 18 is allowable as well.

-13-

Rejection of Claims 63-65 Over Huff In View Of Garza

The Examiner has rejected claims 63-65 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Huff (1644528) in view of Garza (4168860). Claim 63 has been amended

to depend from allowed claim 8 and to have consistent antecedent basis with new base claim

8. No new issues have been raised by this amendment. Since claim 63 depends from allowed

claim 8, claim 63 is allowable as well. Claims 64 and 65 are also allowable for depending

from allowed base claim 8.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 8, 13-17, 19-28, 30-

34 and 36-42 are allowed. Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims

43-45 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112,

second paragraph. Applicant has amended claim 43 as suggested by the Examiner and

therefore claims 43-45 are allowable.

Restriction/Election

Applicant appreciates that the Examiner has considered withdrawn claims 37-39

on the merits for depending from an allowed, generic claim.

-14-

S/N: 10/709,403 Reply to Office Action of April 23, 2007

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully asserts that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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